CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1 and 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 2~~, in which the inscribed gear is provided on a circumference of a part of the input shaft.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 3, in which the input shaft comprises a shaft formed as one piece integrally with the inscribed gear.

Claim 5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 5~~, in which the circumscribed gear is provided on an inner circumference of the driving pulley.

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 6, in which the driving pulley comprises a pulley formed as one piece integrally with the circumscribed gear.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 13 ~~claim 5~~, further comprising

~~a housing for containing the inscribed gear, the circumscribed gear and the driving pulley, and~~

a driving pulley support means held by the housing for supporting the driving pulley rotatably about a central axis line of the driving pulley.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electric power steering apparatus, comprising: ~~according to claim 8, in which~~

an electric motor for generating a steering assist force;

a reduction gear mechanism for reducing a rotation speed of an output shaft of the electric motor;

a conversion mechanism for converting an output rotation of the reduction gear mechanism into an axial movement of a steerable shaft extending in a transverse direction of a vehicle,

the reduction mechanism comprising:

an inscribed gear having external teeth and being rotatable interlockingly with the output shaft of the electric motor;

a circumscribed gear having internal teeth in which the inscribed gear is inscribed;

a driving pulley integrally rotatable with the circumscribed gear , the driving pulley being in the shape of a cylinder and having a first end portion and a

second end portion, the first end portion of the driving pulley being closer to the output shaft of the electric motor than the second end portion, and at least the first end portion of the driving pulley being opened,

a driven pulley disposed so as to surround the steerable shaft;

an endless belt for connecting the driving pulley and the driven pulley, and

an input shaft for transmitting a driving force through the inscribed gear and the circumscribed gear to the driving pulley;

a housing for containing the inscribed gear, the circumscribed gear and the driving pulley, and

a driving pulley support means held by the housing for supporting the driving pulley rotatably about a central axis line of the driving pulley, wherein

a support shaft is formed as extending from the second end portion of the driving pulley along the central axis line of the driving pulley, and

the driving pulley support means comprises a bearing for rotatably supporting the driving pulley through the support shaft.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9 ~~claim 8~~, in which

the input shaft comprises a first end portion, a second end portion and an intermediate portion,

the first end portion of the input shaft being connected to the output shaft of the electric motor on a same axis line so as to transmit torque thereto,

the inscribed gear being provided on an outer circumference of at least the second end portion of the input shaft, and

the intermediate potion of the input shaft comprising a portion rotatably supported by a bearing held by the housing.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9 ~~claim 1~~, in which a center to center distance between the driving pulley and the driven pulley is shorter than a center to center distance between the inscribed gear and the driven pulley.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original): An electric power steering apparatus ~~according to claim 12~~, ~~further~~ comprising:

an electric motor for generating a steering assist force;

a reduction gear mechanism for reducing a rotation speed of an output shaft of the electric motor;

a conversion mechanism for converting an output rotation of the reduction gear mechanism into an axial movement of a steerable shaft extending in a transverse direction of a vehicle,

the reduction mechanism comprising:

an inscribed gear having external teeth and being rotatable interlockingly with the output shaft of the electric motor;

a circumscribed gear having internal teeth in which the inscribed gear is inscribed;

a driving pulley integrally rotatable with the circumscribed gear, the driving pulley being in the shape of a cylinder and having a first end portion and a second end portion, the first end portion of the driving pulley being closer to the output shaft of the electric motor than the second end portion, and at least the first end portion of the driving pulley being opened;

a driven pulley disposed so as to surround the steerable shaft, a center to center distance between the driving pulley and the driven pulley being shorter than a center to center distance between the inscribed gear and the driven pulley, the driving pulley being swingably supported by the inscribed gear;

an input shaft for transmitting a driving force through the inscribed gear and the circumscribed gear to the driving pulley; and

an endless belt for connecting the driving pulley and the driven pulley; and

a housing for containing the inscribed gear, the circumscribed gear and the driving pulley,

the driving pulley having a through hole opened at the first end portion and the second end portion thereof,

the input shaft ~~comprising a penetrating shaft~~ penetrating through the through hole of the driving pulley, and

the ~~penetrating~~ input shaft comprising a pair of parts extending to both sides respectively with the driving pulley interposed therebetween, and the pair of parts of the ~~penetrating~~ input shaft being rotatably supported respectively by corresponding bearings held by the housing.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a pair of guide parts opposed to the first and second end portions of the driving pulley respectively for restricting an axial movement and rotational rocking of the driving pulley and guiding a rotation of the driving pulley.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 14, in which the housing comprises an opening for passing the endless belt therethrough, and the pair of guide parts are provided at the edge portions of the opening.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~claim 1, further comprising~~

~~a housing for containing the inscribed gear, the circumscribed gear and the driving pulley,~~

the housing containing the driving pulley comprises ~~comprising~~ a connection housing integrally formed with a housing of the electric motor and attached to a housing of the reduction gear mechanism, the connection housing having a cylindrical part, and

~~a~~ the cylindrical part of the connection housing being inserted into the housing of the reduction gear mechanism.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~An~~ The electric power steering apparatus according to claim 9 ~~claim 1~~, in which the endless belt comprises a toothed belt, and the driving pulley and the driven pulley comprise toothed pulleys.